

SHORTCUTS

GIVING BACK



Photo: Dunkel's Dad, Santiago Rodriguez, on Instagram @ santiago.t.rodriguez

Nonprofit Supports Pets and People in Times of Need

BY RENEE BRINCKS

Max's Helping Paws Foundation in Monterey County helps pets like Dunkel when they need assistance paying for veterinary care. Grants up to \$1,500 are awarded.

Navigating care for an ill or injured pet is a difficult, and sometimes expensive, experience. Max's Helping Paws Foundation helps by awarding grants to eligible Monterey County residents.

"We are a financial lifeline for responsible pet owners who have pets in a health crisis," says Dyana Klein, who founded the nonprofit foundation with her veterinarian husband, Dr. Jonathan Fradkin. "Sometimes, as little as \$100 saves an animal's life."

Max's Helping Paws, named for Klein's late miniature pinscher, Maximillian, has helped more than 50 pet-owning households fix broken bones and fund tests.

"An animal's chronic disease can often be controlled after a few weeks of diagnostic stabi-

lization. But the cost prevents many owners from getting that chance," says Fradkin.

Pet owners work with their local veterinarian to apply for assistance based on need and care history; a volunteer committee then reviews each application. Once chosen, Max's Helping Paws Foundation covers up to 50 percent of the pet's medical costs through a one-time grant of up to \$1,500.

"We save and change the lives of pets, and the people who love them. To do that in Max's name is the icing on the cake," says Klein.

Max's Helping Paws Foundation will host its first annual gala to raise funds on May 11 at Quail Lodge and Golf Club in Carmel Valley. For tickets and information, visit www.maxshelpingpaws.org.